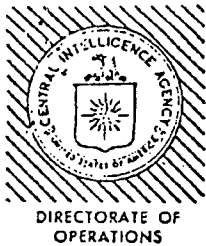


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DIST 29 SEPTEMBER 1973

COUNTRY SYRIA/ISRAEL/ARAB STATES

DOI LATE SEPTEMBER 1973

SUBJECT COMPLETED DEPLOYMENT OF SYRIAN UNITS FOR ASSAULT UPON ISRAEL.

ACQ

SOURCE

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1. (HEADQUARTERS COMMENT: PREVIOUS REPORTS

HAVE DESCRIBED DETAILS OF A SYRIAN PLAN FOR A MASSIVE ASSAULT UPON ISRAEL INVOLVING AT LEAST FOUR SYRIAN DIVISIONS. THE PROPOSED ASSAULT WAS TO BE LAUNCHED UPON THE GOLAN HEIGHTS ALONG A BROAD FRONT 80 KILOMETERS WIDE, AND WAS AIMED AT OCCUPYING THE GOLAN HEIGHTS UP TO THE PRE-JUNE 1967 BORDERS. EARLIER REPORTS OF THIS SYRIAN PLAN STATED THAT SYRIA WOULD BE MILITARILY SUPPORTED BY TROOPS AND AIRCRAFT FROM EGYPT, IRAQ, MOROCCO, ALGERIA, AND THE SUDAN; HOWEVER, RECENT REPORTING HAS MENTIONED ONLY SYRIAN UNITS, WHICH WERE TO BE IN PLACE FOR AN ASSAULT SCHEDULED TO BE READY SOMETIME BETWEEN 19 AND 25 SEPTEMBER 1973. THE ACTUAL TIMING OF THE ASSAULT, IF IT WAS INDEED TO BE MOUNTED, WAS NOT YET DEFINITE; ALL UNITS INVOLVED WERE TO BE IN PLACE BY 25 SEPTEMBER, BUT THE ATTACK WAS NOT AUTOMATICALLY TO BEGIN UPON POSITIONING OF THE UNITS.)

2. ALL SYRIAN ARMY UNITS ARE EXPECTED TO BE IN POSITION BY THE END OF SEPTEMBER. INFANTRY DIVISIONS 5, 7, AND 9 HAVE COMPLETED THEIR DEPLOYMENT IN THEIR ALLOCATED SECTORS. BRIGADE COMMANDERS HAVE THE OPERATIONS ORDER NOW, AND ARE BRIEFING BATTALION COMMANDERS AT THEIR HEADQUARTERS IN SECRECY. MISSILES AND ANTI-AIRCRAFT UNITS ARE DEPLOYED CLOSE TO THE FRONT LINES TO SUPPORT THE ATTACK AT ZERO HOUR.

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3. THE FIRST ASSAULT UNITS WILL COMMENCE ACTION AT NIGHT TO AVOID UNNECESSARY LOSSES. CITIES, PARTICULARLY DAMASCUS, ARE IN THE PROCESS OF TAKING ALL POSSIBLE CIVIL DEFENSE PRECAUTIONS.

4. THE 7TH DIVISION IS SUPPORTED BY THE MOROCCAN BRIGADE STATIONED IN SYRIA. THE 9TH DIVISION IS SUPPORTED BY THE 88TH TANK BRIGADE, WHICH WILL OCCUPY A POSITION IN THE AREA OF FUKAY VILLAGE, NABA'AL-THURAYYA, AND TAL MUTAWWAQ AL-KABIR. THIS POSITIONING BY THE 88TH WAS TO HAVE BEEN COMPLETED BY 23 SEPTEMBER.

5. THE 5TH INFANTRY DIVISION WILL BE SUPPORTED BY THE NEWLY-FORMED 47TH TANK BRIGADE, WHICH WILL MOVE SHORTLY FROM HOMS TO DARA'. THIS BRIGADE IS WEAK IN TRAINING, ALTHOUGH ITS COMMANDER, COLONEL RIYADH K H-A L I D, IS REPUTED TO BE THE BEST AND MOST AGGRESSIVE TANK OFFICER IN THE SYRIAN MILITARY.

6. THE 1ST TANK DIVISION IS ASSIGNED AN AREA OF CONCENTRATION IN THE 9TH DIVISION SECTOR. IT IS TO ATTACK TO THE WEST IN THE AREA OF ABKIL, KABTAH, AND JIDAYH. ITS ATTACK IS TO COMMENCE SIMULTANEOUSLY WITH THAT OF THE 9TH INFANTRY DIVISION.

7. MOST ARTILLERY UNITS ARE POSITIONED WITH THE 3RD AND 9TH DIVISIONS.

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8. THE FOLLOWING TASKS HAVE BEEN ASSIGNED WHICH DIFFER SLIGHTLY FROM THE ORIGINAL SYRIAN OPERATIONAL PLAN:

A. THREE INFANTRY DIVISIONS WILL ATTACK AFTER UNITS IN THE "HARN" AREA HAVE APPLIED PRESSURE. THE 7TH AND 9TH DIVISIONS WILL CONCENTRATE TO THE NORTH AND SOUTH OF QUNAYTRA, WHICH REPRESENTS THE MAIN THRUST.

B. IT IS PLANNED THAT THE 1ST TANK DIVISION WILL MOVE FROM AN AREA BEHIND THE 9TH DIVISION (PRESUMABLY THROUGH IT) BETWEEN QUNAYTRA AND KHIRBAT AL-KHISHAYNIYYA AND DEVELOP ITS ATTACK TOWARD BANAAT YAKOV BRIDGE.

C. THE 3RD TANK DIVISION WILL MOVE FROM BEHIND THE 7TH DIVISION (PRESUMABLY THROUGH IT) TO DEVELOP ITS ATTACK BETWEEN KHIRBAT BAKANA AND QUNAYTRA TO WASAT, AND ADDITIONALLY TO THE NORTH OF BANAAT YAKOV BRIDGE BY EIGHT KILOMETERS. IT HAS ADDITIONALLY BEEN ASSIGNED THE TASK OF ESTABLISHING AND OCCUPYING A BRIDGEHEAD WEST OF THE RIVER IN ISRAEL PROPER. THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THIS BRIDGEHEAD WILL BE SUPPORTED BY A PARATROOP DROP AT HAWAYAT.

D. THE SYRIAN/LEBANESE BORDER IS COVERED BY THE 90TH AND 85TH INFANTRY BRIGADES, ALTHOUGH THE 85TH MAY BE ATTACHED TO THE 7TH DIVISION, AS THE MAIN ATTACK WILL BE ON ITS

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LEFT FLANK.

9. IT HAS BEEN NOTED BY THE SYRIANS THAT THE ISRAELI FORCES HAVE PLACED WHITE MARKINGS IN FRONT OF THEIR POSITIONS, PRESUMABLY TO MARK THEIR FORWARD POSITIONS FOR THEIR PILOTS.

11. [] DISSEM: [] FOR AMBASSADOR AND DEFATT ONLY. SENT []

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